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STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: EMERGENCY INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR PEACE, NORMALCY AND RECONSTRUCTION OF WAR-STRICKEN AFGHANISTAN
THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 28 August 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a statement by the Oliy Majlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Uzbekistan regarding the events in Afghanistan, adopted at the twelfth session of the first convocation of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan on 28 August 1998.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 20 (c) and 43, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alisher VOHIDOV
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Statement by the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan regarding the events in Afghanistan, adopted at the twelfth session of its first convocation, on 28 August 1998

The Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan expresses its deep concern at the severe exacerbation of the military-political situation in Afghanistan. The events currently taking place in close proximity to the borders of our country can only lead to even more bitter fratricidal war and bloodshed in neighbouring Afghanistan. This continuing war poses a threat not only to stability in the region, but also to security in the entire continent.

The increasing interference of external forces, which complicates the already critical situation and further escalates military confrontation, is a great source of concern.

Uzbekistan has always been and is one of the most consistent supporters of a peaceful settlement of the Afghan problem. Historically, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan, as bordering countries, have always been peaceful neighbours and have enjoyed neighbourly, respectful and mutually beneficial relations.

Peace and accord in the neighbouring State and stability on our borders are crucial conditions for the successful implementation of social, political and economic reforms in Uzbekistan and for protecting our people from the deprivations and misfortunes that war brings in its train. Uzbekistan, acting on the basis of its national interests and taking into account the growing threat near its southern borders, is undertaking the necessary measures to safeguard security and strengthen its borders.

The Oliy Majlis again reaffirms its adherence to the initiatives put forward earlier by the Republic of Uzbekistan on a peaceful settlement of the crisis in Afghanistan. Long-term and sustainable peace in that State can be achieved only with the most active assistance of the United Nations and the international community. It is important to ensure:

First: The immediate cessation of all military action;

Second: The introduction of an embargo on the delivery of arms to Afghanistan;

Third: The cessation of external interference;

Fourth: The formation of a broad-based coalition government with wide representation of ethnic groups and political movements;

Fifth: The active participation of all interested countries, and above all of Afghanistan's neighbours, in the peacemaking process. In this regard, the 'six plus two' contact group, created on the initiative of Uzbekistan and under the auspices of the United Nations, can be regarded as an important

international mechanism for facilitating peaceful settlement of the Afghan problem.

The Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan calls on the United Nations and the world community to take the most urgent measures to halt the bloodshed and seek ways of achieving a peaceful resolution of the Afghan problem. With each day, the international community becomes more and more certain that the continuing nineteen-year long civil war is transforming Afghanistan into a dangerous hotbed of international terrorism and illegal drug trafficking, religious fanaticism and extremism.

The Oliy Majlis expresses its confidence that the United Nations will bring all its authority and influence to bear for an immediate cessation of all military action in Afghanistan.